

## Additional Allocations for Adult Education Initiatives

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve allocations totaling \$1,400,000 for performance rewards (\$200,000), the National Assessment of Adult Literacy (\$650,000), a GED fee waiver program (\$350,000), and postsecondary tuition discounts (\$200,000) from the Adult Education Literacy Trust Fund, 2001-02.

### **Rewards**

County adult education programs are on target to meet the statewide enrollment goal of 75,000 students for 2001-02. Based on last year's performance rewards, the council will need \$200,000 added to the \$600,000 approved in May 2001. To qualify for a reward, adult education programs must meet or exceed annual enrollment and other performance goals. Reward dollars are used by county providers to increase service capacity.

### **National Assessment of Adult Literacy (NAAL)**

Each state in the U.S. has the option of participating in a statewide assessment of adult literacy concurrent with the National Assessment of Adult Literacy. As a follow up to the 1992 survey, the NAAL will be administered in 2002 with data available in 2004. Participation requires the states to pay for the additional costs of planning, sampling, data collection, and quality control necessary to provide valid estimates at the state level. The cost for Kentucky's participation is \$1,000,000, including county-level estimates. The data will be used to monitor progress and will continue to guide council decisions on policy and budget. The council allocated \$350,000 in May 2001 as the initial investment. Funds are available to pay the total survey cost.

### **Tests of General Educational Development (GED Tests)**

New GED tests take effect January 1, 2002. Waiving the \$30 test fee will encourage more Kentuckians to take the new tests. The benefits of the waiver include:

- Marketing of the new GED tests.
- Recruitment tool for county learning centers for pre-GED testing.
- Removal of testing fee barrier.
- Identification of potential GED test takers.
- The potential for more Kentuckians to earn their GED and pursue postsecondary education.

Based on the number of GEDs awarded last year, an allocation of \$350,000 should meet demand.

### **Tuition Discounts**

Kentuckians employed full-time who pass the GED tests within one year are eligible for tuition discounts. Qualified employees attending a state postsecondary institution may receive up to \$250 per semester up to four semesters. About 15 percent of the GED graduates are expected to enter postsecondary education, and a portion of them will meet the employment criteria. One hundred thousand dollars was carried forward from 2000-01, and the council allocated an additional \$100,000 at its May 2001 meeting. Based on the number of people completing the GED tests last year, an additional \$200,000 is requested to ensure funding as required by statute.

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